

Grade 4 Science Assessment: The Digestive System

Learning objective: To describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans and identify the changes that take place during digestion.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your answers are clear and use scientific vocabulary where possible. You have 40 minutes to complete this assessment.

Nova the barn owl has been observing how animals process their food. She wants to see if you can explain what happens to a piece of apple once it enters a human body, from the first bite to the final stages of digestion.

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · small intestine · large intestine · saliva · nutrients · digestion · rectum

1. 1. What is the role of saliva in the mouth at the start of the digestive process? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. 2. After swallowing, the food travels down a tube to reach the stomach. What is the name of this tube? (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. 3. Explain what happens to food while it is inside the stomach. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. 4. Why is the small intestine an important part of the digestive system? (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. 5. Describe the main job of the large intestine. (2 marks) (2 marks)

6. 6. Max the monkey is trying to explain the digestive system to his friends. Write a short explanation (3-4 sentences) describing the journey of food from the stomach to the small intestine, and why this movement is necessary. (4 marks) (4 marks)

7. 7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a piece of food. Write a diary entry describing your journey through the human digestive system. You must mention at least four different parts of the system and explain what happens to you in each one. (5 marks) (5 marks)

8. 8. True or False: Digestion begins in the stomach. Explain your answer. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple labelled diagram of the human digestive system, including the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, and intestines.



Extension challenge: Total: /25